—21. An audio player with an interchangeable data carrier for audio data, the audio player comprising:

at least one micro-controller in communication with a peripheral keyboard;

a data connection between said at least one micro-controller and a decompression circuit;

an MM card adapted to be inserted into a slot of the audio player, the MM card having a first data connection with said at least one micro-controller and a second data connection in communication with said decompression circuit, the decompression circuit in further communication with a D/A converter; and,

a playback unit in communication with an output of D/A converter.

- 22. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the audio player 1 further comprises an interface in communication with a data source, the interface and said data source in further communication with the said micro-controller.
- 23. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said micro-controller comprises a memory, the memory selected from the group consisting of ROM, RAM, or a combination of ROM and RAM components.
- 24. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the MM card further comprises a data controller selected from the group consisting of a microprocessor and an ASIC, and further comprising a memory component.
- 25. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the MM card further comprises a signal processor for converting text data into audio data.
- 26. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said decompression circuit further comprises at least one signal processor and at least one serial, high-speed interface in communication with the MM card.

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- 27. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said audio player further comprises a plurality of MM cards.
- 28. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said audio player further comprises a graphics display component.
- 29. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein said audio player is integrated with a second audio playback unit and having an additional storage medium.
- 30. The audio player according to claim 21 wherein the MM card data may be transferred to the decompressor via a pathway through the microcontroller.
 - 31. A method of operating an audio player comprising:

supplying audio data for the audio player via an interface;

transferring the compressed audio data by a micro controller of the audio player into a memory of the MM-card and storing said audio data therein;

transferring said compressed audio data directly from the memory of the MM-card to a decompression circuit;

decompressing said compressed audio data; and,

supplying the decompressed audio data via a D/A-converter to a playback unit.

32. A method of operating an audio player comprising:

supplying compressed audio data for an audio player by means of an interchangeable data carrier;

sending compressed audio data directly from a memory of the said data carrier to a decompression circuit;

decompressing said compressed audio data; and,

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sending said data from said D/A-converter to a playback unit.

- 33. A method of operating an audio player comprising: supplying audio data to an audio player by means of an interface; sending said data directly to a decompression circuit; decompressing said data within said decompression circuit; transferring said data to a D/A-converter; and, sending said data from said D/A-converter to a playback unit.
- 34. A method of operating an audio player comprising: supplying a source of audio data for an audio player by means of an interchangeable data carrier;

transferring said audio data by a micro controller from the memory of said data carrier to a decompression circuit;

decompressing said data; and, supplying said data via a D/A-converter to a playback unit.

- 35. The method according to claim 31 wherein the data transfer rate is at least about 92 Kbit/s.
- 36. The method according to claim 31 wherein said micro-controller is responsive to a keyboard, the keyboard enabling the interruption of audio data from the MM card upon initiation of select inputs on said keyboard.
- 37. The method according to claim 36 wherein said interruption of data transfer is stored in the MM card by a data marker.
- 38. The method according to claim 31 wherein text data stored on said MM card is converted through said micro-controller into audio data.

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- 39. The method according to claim 31 wherein selected text data stored in the MM card is controlled by said micro-controller so that said selected text data is reproduced on a display of said playback unit.
- 40. The method according to claim 38 wherein said text data stored on said MM card is compressed.
- 41. The method according to claim 31 wherein said micro-controller is responsive to a platform-independent programming language.
- 42. The method according to claim 31 wherein said compressed audio data may be transferred at selected, different transfer rates to said decompression circuit.
- 43. The method according to claim 31 wherein said interface is a serial interface.
- 44. The method according to claim 32 wherein said data carrier is an MM-card.
- 45. The method according to claim 33 wherein said interface is a serial interface.
- 46. The method according to claim 34 wherein said interchangeable data carrier is an MM-card.—

<u>REMARKS</u>

By way of the second preliminary amendment, Applicant has cancelled independent claims 1 and 10 and dependent claims 2 and 11. New claims 21 through 46 are presented by consideration by the Examiner.

Applicant's first preliminary amendment had a typographical error incorrectly identifying the page number for amending the specification. By way of the above

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